

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 195264 TOSEC 090016

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJECT: BRIEFING MEMORANDUM: PORTUGUESE DEVELOPMENTS AS
OF 1800 HOURS EDT, 16 AUGUST 1975 (S/S NO. 7516549)

1. BENEATH SURFACE TRANQUILITY, INTENSE POLITICAL MANEU-
VERING CONTINUED IN LISBON THIS AFTERNOON AS:

--PRIME MINISTER GONCALVES CALLED HIS CABINET INTO EMER-
GENCY SESSION TO DISCUSS THE POLITICAL CRISIS,

--INTERSINDICAL LABOR LEADERS APPEALED TO THE GOVERNMENT TO
GIVE THEM WEAPONS TO DEFEND UNION HEADQUARTERS AGAINST THE
THREAT OF ANTI-COMMUNIST VIOLENCE, AND

--ALVARO CUNHAL CALLED FOR A COMMUNIST "SHOW OF FORCE" TO-
NIGHT IN THE NORTH-CENTRAL PORTUGUESE TOWN OF ALCOBACA
WHERE TOWNSPEOPLE DESTROYED THE LOCAL COMMUNIST PARTY HEAD-
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QUARTERS ONLY TWO WEEKS AGO.

WE DO NOT YET HAVE ANY REPORTS ON THE OUTCOME OF THE CABINET MEETING OR THE SITUATION AT THE ALCOBACA RALLY WHERE CUNHAL IS SCHEDULED TO SPEAK.

2. ELSEWHERE IN CONTINENTAL PORTUGAL AND THE AZORES, EVERYTHING IS QUIET.

3. IN ITALY, COMMUNIST LEADER BERLINGUER AND SOCIALIST LEADER DE MARTINO ISSUED AN UNUSUAL JOINT DECLARATION ON PORTUGAL, CALLING FOR AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE PORTUGUESE COMMUNISTS AND SOCIALISTS AND BETWEEN THESE TWO PARTIES AND THE ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT. ROME'S 11752, WHICH REPORTS THE DECLARATION IN DETAIL, HAS BEEN REPEATED TO YOU. SISCO

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